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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11 JEDIDIAH AUSTIN SHOEMAKER, No. C 12-4773 SBA (PR)
12 Petitioner,
13 v.
14 CONNIE GIPSON,
15 Respondent.

Docket no. 4

17 Petitioner has filed a motion for appointment of counsel in this habeas action. The Sixth
18 Amendment right to counsel does not apply in habeas corpus actions. See Knaubert v. Goldsmith,
19 791 F.2d 722, 728 (9th Cir. 1986). Title 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(a)(2)(B), however, authorizes a district
20 court to appoint counsel to represent a habeas petitioner whenever "the court determines that the
21 interests of justice so require" and such person is financially unable to obtain representation. The
22 decision to appoint counsel is within the discretion of the district court. See Chaney v. Lewis, 801
23 F.2d 1191, 1196 (9th Cir. 1986); Knaubert, 791 F.2d at 728; Bashor v. Risley, 730 F.2d 1228, 1234
24 (9th Cir. 1984). The courts have made appointment of counsel the exception rather than the rule by
25 limiting it to: (1) capital cases; (2) cases that turn on substantial and complex procedural, legal or
26 mixed legal and factual questions; (3) cases involving uneducated or mentally or physically impaired
27 petitioners; (4) cases likely to require the assistance of experts either in framing or in trying the
28 claims; (5) cases in which petitioner is in no position to investigate crucial facts; and (6) factually

1 complex cases. See generally 1 J. Liebman & R. Hertz, Federal Habeas Corpus Practice and
2 Procedure § 12.3b at 383-86 (2d ed. 1994). Appointment is mandatory only when the circumstances
3 of a particular case indicate that appointed counsel is necessary to prevent due process violations.
4 See Chaney, 801 F.2d at 1196; Eskridge v. Rhay, 345 F.2d 778, 782 (9th Cir. 1965).

5 At this time, the Court is unable to determine whether the appointment of counsel is
6 mandated for Petitioner. The Court thus finds that the interests of justice do not require appointment
7 of counsel at this juncture. Should the Court find that an evidentiary hearing is necessary following
8 consideration of the merits of Petitioner's claims, the Court may reconsider the request.

9 Accordingly,

10 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT Petitioner's motion for appointment of counsel is
11 DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE. This Order terminates Docket no. 4.

12 IT IS SO ORDERED.

13 Dated: 2/14/13


14 SAUNDRA BROWN ARMSTRONG
15 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 FOR THE
3 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

4 JEDIDIAH AUSTIN SHOEMAKER,

5 Plaintiff,

6 v.

7 CONNIE GIPSON et al.,

8 Defendant.

Case Number: CV12-04773 SBA

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

9
10 I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District
Court, Northern District of California.

11 That on February 19, 2013, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said
12 copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said
13 envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located
in the Clerk's office.

14
15 Jedidiah Austin Shoemaker G-16403
16 California State Prison - Folsom
17 P.O. Box 950
Folsom, CA 95763

18 Dated: February 19, 2013

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk
By: Lisa Clark, Deputy Clerk